THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K. H. MUNIYAPPA): (a) It is a fact that there are economic losses due to inadequate capacity and poor quality of the highways. However, it is difficult to quantity accurately such losses.

(b) Road freight operations are almost entirely in the hands of the private sector and the vehicle fleet in India comprises different categories of vehicles having different productivity levels. Though no authentic details of productivity of trucks in the country are available, it is know that the distance covered by road freight carriers in India are lower than developed countries due to constraints of capacity and quality of roads.

(c) The National Highways are being kept in traffic worthy condition within the available resources. The total length of National Highways in the country at present is 65,569 km. Out of this, about 18% of the road lengths are of single-lane and 12% are of intermediate lane width.

(d) Several measures/programmes like National Highways Development Project (NHDP), which includes 4/6-laning of existing National Highways have been taken up for improvement/development of the National Highways.

Raw material for SSI from PSUs

4628. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of units have been in the business of manufacturing various intermediaries out of raw-materials supplied by PSUs, like Coal India, Indian Oil Refineries etc., over the last several decades;

(b) the total number of such SSI units on 1st April of 1980,1991, 1996,1998,2001 and 2004, State-wise;

(c) whether there was any policy framework envisaging preferential supply of raw-materials by PSUs to SSI Units;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the instance of closing down of SSI units due to changes in policies resulting in stoppage of raw-materials by PSUs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Though it is a fact that a large number of small scale industries (SSI) use raw material produced and supplied by the Central Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) such as Coal India, etc., the number of such units which manufacture only intermediates out of such raw material is not centrally collected and maintained. Hence, it is not possible to provide information on the number of SSI units State-wise manufacturing various intermediates as on the dates mentioned in part (b) of the question.

(c) and (d) Information regarding past policy framework envisaging preferential supply of raw materials by PSUs to SSI units is being collected.

(e) Data on the number of SSI units closed down due to change in the policies resulting in stoppage of raw material by PSUs are not collected and maintained centrally.

All India Census for SSI Sector

4629. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the third All India census of small-scale sector are out;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the census has thrown light on the structure and characteristics of the SSI;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) the main findings of the census; and

(e) in what way his Ministry is thinking of using the findings in policy formulation?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) The details of the structure and characteristics of the small scale industries (SSI) and the main findings of the Third All India Census are given in the Statement (See below).